
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Discharge Planning Committee

August 25, 2009 Minutes

Chair: Dan Haley

Next Meeting: October 27, 2009, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Ste. 300
--

Report to TPCCH General Meeting
--

- | |
|--|
| ■ Possible motion to allot up to \$800 from TPCCH General Fund for <i>Guidelines</i> printing. |
|--|

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the previous meeting (June 2009) were accepted by consensus.
- 2. Flanagan Invitation.** Dan Haley noted that the Arizona Department of Corrections is currently experiencing rapid changes and that the state legislature has proposed privatizing most corrections functions. Therefore, the invitation to ADC Deputy Director Charles Flanagan will be tabled until there is a more solid basis for discussing the discharge planning process and possible improvements.

Linda Saxon suggested that Bruce McMohan, with ADC locally, might be open to and able to accept an invitation to dialog with the committee. She is checking with the ADC substance abuse and counseling service regarding approval for checking on approval for someone to attend the committee.
- 3. Guidelines on Getting Out.**
 - **Final Review.** Participants identified edits, which were marked on a single copy of the final draft. Betty moved that, after these are added, the 2009 Guidelines be closed to additional edits. Wayne Steele seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - **Next step.** Settle Madden will make the indicated edits and forward the final Guidelines to Dan Haley.
 - **Print Quotations.** Participants reviewed the print quotations received. Wayne moved to accept the low quotation of \$1,425 plus tax (approximately \$1,541 total) from Impact Dealer Services. Betty Bitgood seconded. **Motion passed.**

Dan noted that Nick Jones of Old Pueblo Community Services said that he might be willing to cover one-half of the cost. Dan will ask CPSA, which first wants to see the final item, to cover the other half and to provide an answer before the September 10th General Council meeting. Logos, names or both of print sponsors will be added to the back cover as appropriate.

Participants reached consensus that, if the funding is not determined by September 10th, the committee will present a motion to the General Council to allot \$800 from the TPCCH General Fund for printing of the *Guidelines*.
 - **Distribution.** Deferred to next meeting.
- 4. Old Business.** None.
- 5. New Business. Changes/Proposed Changes at ADC.** Linda Saxon shared what she knows in addition to the mentioned impetus to privatize the Arizona prisons' health/mental health services. She noted that transfer began of inmates needing health and mental health to the Wilmot prison, but the transfers were stopped due to freeze on staff hiring. Transfers will resume when those approved for hire, but not hired because of freeze are actually added to the facility's staff. The current population there of mental health consumers is approximately 2,100. The ADC's mental health population continues to

New Business, Changes/Proposed Changes at ADC cont'd.

rise. There is currently room for 4,200 inmates at the Wilmot facility. An extra 1,000 beds are to be added in the next four to five months, but will not be sufficient for all Arizona inmates needed health/mental health care.

Dan noted that he has talked with Karen Hillman, the ADC substance abuse treatment administrator, about having a local a peer mentor program in which ex-offenders return to assist current inmates. CPSA would partner with Hope, Inc. and RAPP in the effort. Currently ADC regulations require ex-offenders returning to prisons to have been release at least two years previously, but they are working to see if that requirement might be waived for this program.

He added that the COSIG program is coming to an end in September. The Governors' Council on Co-occurring Disorders is working to set up replacement services.

Linda added that many releasees are currently experiencing health care problems because of cutbacks in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) staff. It currently takes approximately 60 days to process an AHCCCS application. Inmates are released from prison with 30 days of medication, leaving them without prescriptions for at least one month. AHCCCS applications need to be submitted prior to the inmate's release in order to provide continuity of medication. While SAMHC can provide some temporary help, they are unable to provide all medications for all releasees in the area.

6. Next meeting. Tuesday, October 27th. CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

*Betty Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org
*Tom Conkright	Hope, Inc.	tomconkright@hopetucson.org
Dan Haley	CPSA	daniel.haley@cpsa-rbha.org
Linda Gleghorn	Primavera Foundation	sgleghorn@primavera.org
Michelle Harper-Brule	Primavera Foundation	mharperbrule@primavera.org
Gloria Mendoza	Pima Community Access Program (PCAP)	gloria.mendoza@sheriff.pima.gov
Linda Saxon		mibeli@msn.com
Wayne Steele	Community Member	tucson35@yahoo.com